

needle protection sleeve, and wherein in said proximal position said injection needle does not protrude beyond said needle protection sleeve; and

an indicator which indicates to the user of the apparatus that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

16. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein said needle protection sleeve and said indicator form a switch in a power supply circuit of an electronic indicator means, wherein said switch is contactless and comprises at least two switching conditions, said power supply circuit comprising at least two circuits, a first circuit closed in one condition of said switch and open in the other of said at least two conditions of said switch, and a second circuit open in one condition of said at least two conditions of said switch and closed in the other condition of said switch.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said indicator provides one signal when said needle protection sleeve is in the distal position and a second signal as long as said needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15, said indicator comprising a slider and a viewing window associated with the housing, said slider shiftably mounted on said housing, and shifted by urging of said needle protection sleeve.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said indicator provides a first signal when said needle protection sleeve is in the distal position and a second signal as long as said needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position.

20. (New) An apparatus for subcutaneous administration of an injectable product comprising:

an injection device comprising a container holder, a container and a needle connected to the container;

an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve connected to a proximal portion of the container, said inner and outer sleeves generally concentric;

a needle protection sleeve generally between the inner and outer sleeves and shiftable along a length of travel from a proximal position in which it extends beyond the needle to a distal position between the inner and outer sleeves; and

an electric circuit comprising a luminous element, a power supply, conductor means and a switch comprising a first switching element carried by the needle protection sleeve and a second switching element generally opposite the first switching element and extending along the length of travel of the needle protection sleeve over a length which is at least as long as the length of the travel.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the circuit is opened and closed by the switch, wherein the switch is open as long as the needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position, the luminous element being off when said switch is open, and wherein substantially as soon as the needle protection sleeve attains the distal position, the switch closes the circuit and the luminous element is on.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position when it has been moved relative to the container holder and needle from its proximal position to such an extent that the needle sufficiently extends from the needle protection sleeve to attain a desired pricking depth for an injection.

23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the luminous element is a two-color element, wherein the color illuminated depends on the position of the needle protection sleeve.

24. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the circuit comprises two electric circuits, one for each color, which are open or closed alternatively and depending on the position of the needle protection sleeve.

25. (New) An apparatus for subcutaneous administration of an injectable product comprising:
an injection device comprising a container holder, a container and a needle connected to the container;

an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve connected to a proximal portion of the container, said inner and outer sleeves generally concentric having a space therebetween;

a needle protection sleeve generally between the inner and outer sleeves and shiftable along a length of travel from a proximal position in which it extends beyond the needle to a distal position between the inner and outer sleeves; and

a position indicator comprising: a slider, a mark applied to the slider, and a window in the outer sleeve.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the slider is generally moveable in conjunction with the needle protection sleeve and carries the mark, the slider having one position generally adjacent to a stop element and a second position generally adjacent to an end of the inner sleeve, the slider being urged into the second position by a return element.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein when the needle protection sleeve is in its distal position, the mark is visible through the window.